## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY LABOR:OECD:JPMETCALF:FG
APPROVED BY EUR:RDVINE
LABOR:IP:DAVERY (INFO)
LABOR:S:PJENSEN (VIA PHONE)
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W.HOUSE:AMB:HOWEN (INFO)
W.HOUSE:DP:BSPRING (INFO)

-----061102 121600Z /44

O 121519Z SEP 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 217669

USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OECD/FR

SUBJECT: HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

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REF: (A) PARIS 25818 (B) STATE 170629

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL

A:

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A. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL B THE U.S. STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE PROPOSED INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE BIAC-TUAC CONSULTATIONS.

B. WE ASSUME THAT THE SECRETARIAT'S USE OF THE TERM "TOP OFFICIALS WITH APPROPRIATE POLICY RESPONSIBILITIES" INDICATES MEMBER COUNTRY DELEGATIONS MAY BE HEADED BY EITHER MIN-

ISTERS OR ONE LEVEL BELOW. WE DO NOT OBJECT TO THE TERM IF OUR INTERPRETATION OF ITS MEANING IS CORRECT. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED AT BOTH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 15 AND THE COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 21 THAT THE U.S. BELIEVES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONFERENCE REQUIRES MINISTERIAL LEVEL PARTICIPATION AND THE SECRETARY OF LABOR WILL LEAD THE U.S. DELEGATION. ARGUMENTS FOR THIS POSITION ARE GIVEN IN REFTEL B

C. IN VIEW OF THE COMPLEXITY AND SENSITIVITY OF THE ISSUE OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT - AND BECAUSE THE CONFERENCE WILL INCLUDE MINISTERS - IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THERE BE A MEETING OF OFFICIALS OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE EXPERTISE TO PREPARE FOR THE CONFERENCE. THIS WAS RECOGNIZED AT THE JULY MEETING OF THE MSAC WHICH RECOMMEND THAT SUCH A MEETING BE HELD IN EARLY OCTOBER. THE TIMING PROPOSED BY THE MSAC MAY NO LONGER BE REALISTIC BUT A PREPARATORY MEETING WITH APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAPITALS OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE HELD IN MID OR LATE OCTOBER WITH THE FINAL DECISION ON QUESTIONS SUCH AS THE FINAL FORM AND CONTENT OF DOCUMENTS DELAYED UNTIL THE PREPARATORY GROUP HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW SECRETARIAT DRAFTS.

D. SECRETARY MARSHALL AGREES WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S VIEW THAT IT WOULD STRENGTHEN THE CONFERENCE IF HE ACCEPTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CHAIR. HE WANTS THE CHAIRMANSHIP AND, IF THE MISSION BELIEVES IT IS APPROPRIATE, HE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE AMBASSADOR WOULD NOMINATE HIM AT THE FORTHCOMING COUNCIL MEETING.

- E. THE PROPOSED DATES OF DECEMBER 14 FOR BIAC/TUAC CONSULTATIONS AND DECEMBER 15 AND 16 FOR THE CONFERENCE ARE ACCEPTABLE. ANY ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE DATES TO EARLIER IN DECEMBER SHOULD BE RESISTED AS THE SECRETARY OF LABOR'S SCHEDULE WOULD NOT PERMIT HIM TO ATTEND BEFORE THE PROPOSED DATES.
- 2. IN VIEW OF SENATOR HUMPHREY'S IMPORTANT ROLE IN MARSHALLING SUPPORT FOR THIS CONFERENCE AND BECAUSE OF HIS
  DEEP INTEREST AND EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUBJECT OF
  YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND
  USEFUL FOR HIM TO HAVE SOME SPECIAL ROLE IN THE CONFERENCE
  IN ADDITION TO HIS PARTICIPATION ON THE U.S. DELEGATION.
  MISSION SHOULD RAISE WITH THE SECRETARIAT AND OTHER DELEGATIONS THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SENATOR BEING DESIGNATED
  AS ONE OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS. VANCE

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